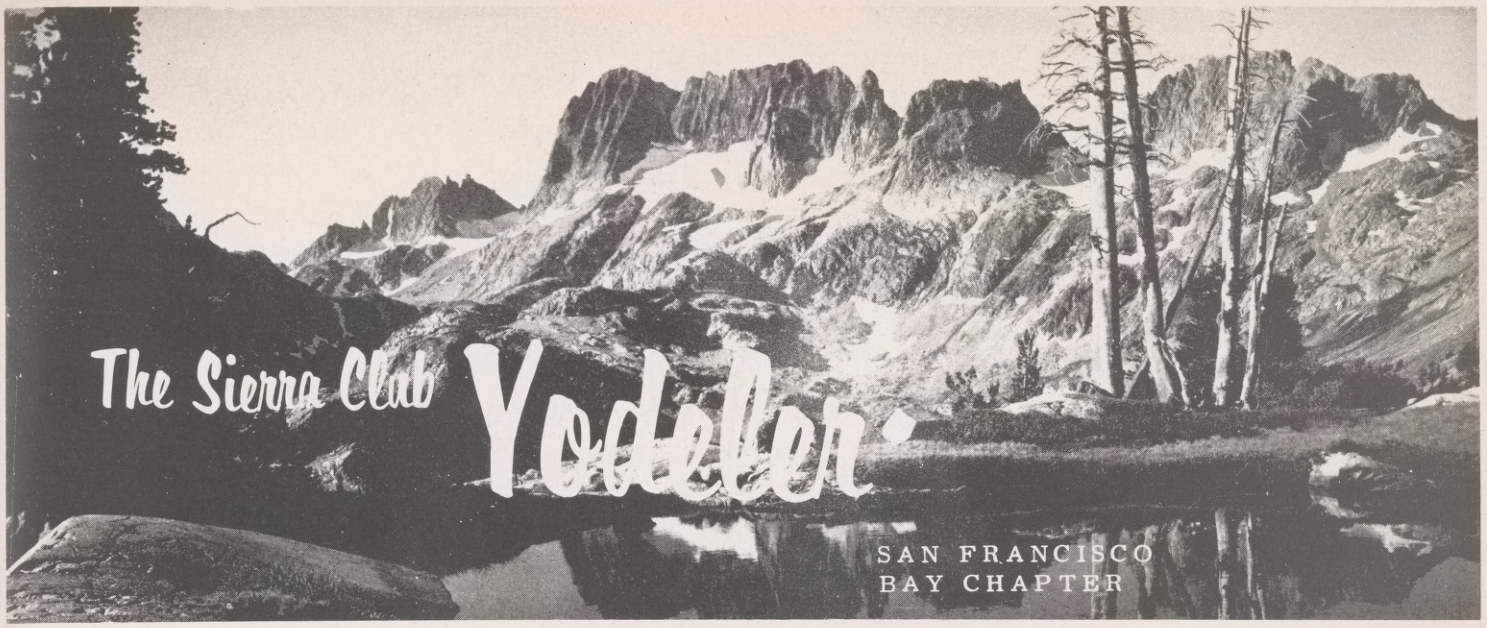

Volume XXI June 1, 1959 Number 11

Point Reyes Project — What Now

When a group from the National Park Service, traveling down the west coast in search of possible recreation areas, announced that the Marin County coast south of Point Reyes was one of their best finds, most of the public was surprised. The press gave the recommendation front-page publicity, groups approved or opposed according to their interests, and the project retired to the background to wait for the patient, burrowing efforts which bring such ideas to fruit.

As usual, money is the hard rock which slows up the work. Funds are needed for detailed surveys, for public education through films and programs, for published information, and the National Park Service has nothing in the budget for promotion of this area.

The first move was made by a group of interested citizens who went to Lake Ranch and sent their impressions in letters to the Park Service. Later, there was a field trip along the coast, working north to Point Reyes, at which leaders of Marin County organizations were present, and which Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, was able to attend.

This field trip was followed in April, 1959 by a meeting at the College of Marin, where Dr. Paul Wilson is an enthusiastic worker for the cause. Plans were laid to get funds for an economic survey and so place this National Seashore Recreation area among official projects. Money for the survey would have to come from national sources. Senators Kuchel and Engle are now asking for such funds in Congress. When the survey is made, the Park Service will be able to give this project some publicity even if their budget does not allocate specific funds. (continued on page 2)

Northern Cascades Slides

Washington's wilderness wonderland, the Northern Cascades, is the subject of a color slide-illustrated talk to be given by Alice Abeel on Wednesday, June 17, at the Live Oak Community Little Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. The program, sponsored by the Berkeley Recreation Department, will begin at 8:00 p.m.

The Northern Cascades region, as Sierra Club members know, is one of the outstanding scenic areas of the country. Its glacier-covered peaks, forested valleys, and flower-filled alpine uplands reach their climax in magnificent Glacier Peak, the outstanding geolgic feature of the region and one of the chain of Cascade volcanic cones which extends from Mount Lassen to the Canadian border.

Two Sierra Club outings are scheduled for the Northern Cascades area this summer. The program will provide those planning to participate in one or the other with an opportunity for a preview. Those not planning to visit the Cascades will have a chance to understand better the necessity for conserving the unique scenic values of the region. —EP

Summer Outing Info:

The latest inside report is that there is still room available for reservations on most of the larger trips on the summer outing schedule. The #1 High Trip, however, is pretty well booked up. The Wind River excursion, Base Camps, and the 2nd High Trip are still open for reservations. The small group trips are pretty well filled as of this date. —EDB

Do Snow and Geology Mix?

Nine hardy unbelievers (in road and weather warnings) turned out on the wintry Saturday of May 23 (largely from cabins and car-beds) in a foot of snow at Silver Lake to begin knapsacking and geologizing with Phil Lydon. After some discussion of the situation it was agreed that the other carloads, less durable, had been turned back at snowline, and that even if it stopped snowing, knapsacking was O-U-T. Rumors that snowline was now at the 2500-foot level (started, no doubt, by the die-easies in the group) quelched any incipient impulse to carry on at a lower level. Leader Lydon displayed a hitherto unsuspected recklessness and lack of that fine judgment befitting a leader, by suggesting that the group might care to descend upon his Sacramento domicile for the night.

After a stroll around part of the lake, with investigation of what geological evidence happened to have vertical planes standing out of the snow, some members hiked at least part way down the highway to Tragedy Springs. There our bedraggled condition brought us an invitation to come in by the stove with our lunches. Soup was prepared, courtesy of Walt Oppenheimer—thanks, Walt. Eventually we left the fairy-garden of heavy-laden trees behind and met again at Phil's cottage. The kitchen soon became a veritable bee-hive with separate commissaries which were hardly combinative except for the soups. The evening was spent in a fine "eat, drink and be merry" atmosphere, the merriment consisting of the leader's excellent folk-song records, a great deal of singing with Pat Cone's baritone uke, and even a few kolos by the late stay-uppers. The adjoining plot of grass provided fine bedsites,

(continued on page 2)

Sierra Club Yodeler

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NEXT DEADLINE: June 15

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Cont. Snow + Geology

with the balmy Valley air and a fairly constant procession of low planes overhead to keep the light sleepers amused.

Sunday morning everyone went to the State Division of Mines, where Phil gave us a meaty workout, partly understood by a few, on what is done by geologists with all that material they chart and collect in the field. (Very incidentally, he sold quite a few publications of the Division of Mines, to say nothing of maps for the Geology-Knapsack Trip next fall.)

What had looked like a dismal weekend for, of all things, a geology field trip, was turned into a particularly informative and enjoyable event, thanks to our leader's hospitality and enthusiasm. And there is still the Silver Lake trip to look forward to for fall. —P.C.

NSS to Learn About Bay Area Mammals

How to guess what animals are around by studying the signs of their nearness will be easy for persons who attend the NSS meeting June 19. Oliver P. Pearson, of the U.C. Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, will talk about Bay Area mammals and how to recognize their presence. He will illustrate his lecture with slides.

The meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the Mills Tower Assembly Room. Those wishing to eat with the group will meet at 6 o'clock at the Mills Tower street entrance.

Conservation Notes

The latest organization to join the battle for the trees is the Kern Plateau Association, formed to consolidate efforts to save the forest on the highlands of the Kern River basin. Forest Service plans are to log half a million acres of wild country lying between Kern and its south fork.

The Association points out that timber here is sparse, slow in growth and may never return after cutting, but that recreation value is high and should be paramount.

This country is easily reached from the great centers of population in southern California and it is described by Sunset Magazine's travel editor, Martin Litton, in the magazine's June issue as "A gentle wilderness....a country of large meadows separated by low ridges, creeks with brightly colored native trout....an open forest with little underbrush."

Congratulations to Sunset Magazine on its feature article for June. This is a fine description of all that the Kern Plateau has to offer to the vacationist. An excellent map is included and the article speaks out clearly about the destruction which would follow logging.

Students at Garfield Junior High School in Berkeley have just been given the Wilderness Bill as a study assignment.

Perhaps other teachers would like to copy this excellent idea. We hear from the Chapter Conservation Education Committee that several schools have asked for study material, Pasadena being the first to study the Bill in class. —CMC

Knapsack Leaflets

The series of leaflets on Knapsack Camping published by the Outing Committee's knapsack subcommittee is being offered again to those interested in this type of travel. Packed with information for the beginner or veteran knapsacker, they have been prepared by experienced backpacker and are based on extensive knowledge gained through years of leading and planning for group knapsack outings and individual weekend trips. The following subjects on Knapsack Camping are covered:

Leaflet 1—Cross-Country Route Finding (revised 1959) - 30¢
Leaflet 2—Personal Equipment (revised 1958) - 30¢
Leaflet 3—Cooking Directions for Large Groups (revised 1959) - 25¢
Leaflet 5—Menu Planning for Weekend Knapsack Trips - 25¢

The four leaflets are available upon request to Betty Osborn, 150 Southwood Drive, San Francisco 12. The fee covers cost of printing and mailing.

Proposed Great Basin Range

National Park Trip
September 5-6-7

A Labor Day weekend trip to the Lehman Caves National Monument and Snake Range in Nevada is being sponsored by the Mother Lode Chapter. Charter bus will leave Sacramento at 7:40 P.M. Friday, September 4, and return Monday evening.

The tentative itinerary includes a visit to Lehman Caves, hikes to Treasure and Stella Lakes and campfire talks on the area. Knapsacking will be arranged if there is sufficient interest. Total cost of the trip will be under $35.00 per person, including bus fare, three meals enroute and six camp meals.

Make reservations now by sending $20.00 to cover transportation to Ken Turner at 1720 N Street, Sacramento 14, California. Refunds will be made until July 10. After this date refunds will be made if trip is cancelled or seat resold. Group commissary will be arranged and money collected at a later date. —Ken Turner

Cont. Point Reyes

Of course there is opposition. The Marin County supervisors first voted against the plan, but later changed their stand to hesitant approval with insistence on making their own survey for tax purposes. Dairy ranchers also oppose it. Most of them would not be affected by the land withdrawal, but they view with alarm the probable influx of people. Their real hope, to retain their present isolation, is a vain one, for pressure on coastal areas is building up and real estate interests are also opposing the national project. Plans are already on paper showing extensive subdivisions along the coastal strip.

What can we do? Back the moves to get the small amount of national funds for an accurate survey by the Park Service (individual and personal letters to Senators Kuchel and Engle, praising their efforts, would certainly help); find ways of providing money which will buy film, printing and publicity to educate the public; know just what is involved in the project.

This is an area shaped like a frying pan. The "pan" is most of the ridge of hills lying west of Highway 1 between Bolinas and Olema, and the "handle" is a long thin strip of beach and cliffs stretching north around Drake's Bay to Point Reyes.

The Board of Directors of the Sierra Club has officially handed this project to the San Francisco Bay Chapter. It is up to us to get it moving. —CMC

Winterized cabin, Highway 50, Echo Summit. Available for Winter Olympics. 2400 sq. ft., fireplace. Rent open. Contact C. F. Field, 1371 - 16th Avenue, LO 4-0908 San Francisco.

Geology of the Bay Area

On Friday night, May 15th, the Natural Science section had the privilege of having Dr. Gordon B. Oakeshott of the State Division of Mines present an illustrated lecture on the Geology of the Bay Area.

The geologic story of the Bay region begins about 130 million years ago at the beginning of the geologic age called the Cretaceous. This was relatively late in geologic time when the estimate of the Earth's age of 4.5 billion years is considered. During the Cretaceous, from 130 to 70 or 75 million years ago, the western portion of California was beneath a sea whose eastern shore was along the base of the Sierra Nevada. In this sea were deposited thick sequences of chert, a siliceous rock probably formed from siliceous muds on the ocean floor.

About 75-80 million years ago the sediments of the Cretaceous trough were folded, elevated, and eroded and may now be seen at Twin Peaks, Mt. Davidson, and north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Granite was intruded into the sediments which have since been eroded to expose the granite at Point Reyes and Montara Mountain. Less extensive sediments were deposited during the Eocene, 70-30 million years ago. This was followed by erosion and another marine invasion in the Miocene, 30-10 million years ago. It was at this time that the Monterey formation was deposited in the present Berkeley Hills and directly on the eroded granite surface at Point Reyes. About 10 million years ago continental lavas were deposited in the present Berkeley Hills.

In the late Pliocene, 5-1 million years ago, a shallow, narrow sea embayment extended from Tomales Bay across the San Francisco peninsula into the present Santa Clara Valley. There were no Berkeley Hills, San Francisco Bay, or Coast Ranges at this time. San Francisco Bay was occupied by a ridge which was being eroded to expose the Franciscan Cretaceous rocks.

About a million years ago Coast Range land forms began to appear. The Merced trough (site of former Pliocene sea) and Berkeley Hills began to rise and the area now occupied by the Bay became a lowland. The inland drainage of the Great Valley reached the "Bay" lowland through the Carquinez Strait and continued to the ocean through the Golden Gate.

When the Ice Age glaciers began to melt, 20-10 thousand years ago, the released waters caused a rise in sea level of approximately 350 feet. This flooded the low valley areas to produce San Francisco and Tomales Bays. The geologic story is still going on as evidenced by wave cut terraces, sea stacks, landslides, and earthquakes. The development of the Bay Area has been a long story but surely not a monotonous one.

—Claire and Neil Fahy

Rock Climbing Section

May 23-24 found the local cragsmen and cragswomen in Yosemite Valley for their last fling before the tourist season begins. Things won't be the same at old Camp 4 until next fall. John Shonle led a successful assault on the Lower Cathedral Spire while veterans Long and Wilson nailed their way up the Higher Cathedral Rock. Other climbs made were the Dinner Ledge on Washington Column, the Leaning Chimney, Monday Morning Slab, and the usual traffic on the Royal Arches.

We are pleased to announce that two of the Rock Climbing Section's "grand and glorious leaders" have taken the fatal plunge—marriage! Norm Turner and Larry Lackey, each just being married one week, did not show up for the Valley trip. In addition, two more of our "great" leaders became proud parents recently. Ginny and Bob Hill now have a Betsy Hill, while Betty and Dick Long are the proud parents of Bret Long.

The Mountain Rescue Committee of the Sierra Club is planning a full-scale practice session in Yosemite Valley on June 13 and 14. This will be a maximum effort rehearsal and it is planned to have several Park Service Rangers participate. Allen Steck and John Dorsey are in charge of the session.

All climbs at Hunters' Hill, near Vallejo, have been cancelled until further notice. The property owner has refused permission for recreational activities on his land. Reasons for this have nothing to do with the Sierra Club and negotiations are in progress to improve the situation.

This month's famous last words in Rock Climbing history, "Oh, look, there is a sling already here for us to use for our rappel." —Carl and Helen Weisner

For Sale

Hammer Touring model foldboat. Single. Bucket seat padded with absorblo. Spray deck. Keel Stripped - good condition. Call Barbara Tilden, OL 5-9521

For your summer mountain trip - 4 lbs. down in washable nylon sleeping bag, with total weight of 5 1/2 lbs. $30.00 is less than cost of materials. Call Ruth Bradley, 2639 Durant St., Berkeley, TH 5-6512.

Chronologists — Attention!

Frances Kehrlein and Edgar Kahn have helped compile "Some California Dates of 1859", a chronology of events of 100 years ago, for the California Historical Society.

One intriguing fact is that James Kennovan walked 400 miles in 100 consecutive hours that year.

Are there any of today's local walkers or High Sierra hikers who are willing to challenge that record? If not, let's invite Supreme Court Justice Douglas!

—Jim Barbour

Please Note

To personnel and public relations directors of Bay Area industries and organizations: Let me write and edit your house publication. Reasonable rates. Write or phone Anna Rind, 1895 Chestnut St., San Francisco 23, Phone WE 1-1837.

Good Wives Hard to Find!

I have not been looking, but that's what I am told. I can't afford to lose mine over a boat and trailer that I bought without her knowledge and consent! So, I must confess my error and pay the price for a mistake in judgment. Boat is a Bowman with oak ribs cedar stripped, mahogany transome, 12' long, 52" beam, 24" depth, 3 seats. Trailer is an ACE, overwidth for maximum stability, with 6.70 x 15 tires. Neither boat nor trailer have ever been in the water. Wife is a golfer and hates water—it terrifies her. This is a lovely family boat, just the ticket for mountain lakes and placid streams. If your wife and family are not afraid of the water, bring with you $400.00 in currency and haul this outfit away. I will be $200.00 poorer but much wiser in family affairs. Call me any evening for appointment at LAkehurst 3-7352. Boat stored in garage in Alameda.

Exec. Committee Speaks Up

The monthly meeting of the Bay Chapter Executive Committee was held on Monday, May 11, in the Club offices.

A report was given that 468 people attended the Annual Dinner at the S.F. Village. Dinner Chairman Claudia Owen and her committee were highly commended for the successful outcome of this event.

Possible locations for next year's dinner were discussed by the Executive group.

Randal Dickey Jr. reported on the subjects discussed and action taken at the last Club Council meeting. All necessary business being taken care of, the meeting was adjourned at an early hour, following Chairman Ned Robinson's announcement that the final gathering of the clan prior to the summer recess would take place at the Chairman's home in Lafayette on Monday, June 8, at 8:00 P.M. All interested club members are invited to attend.

—EDB

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Aug. 5th Idaho Clearwater Trip Taking Shape

Enthusiasm seems to be mounting steadily for the Clearwater Base Camp River Trip as we continue to receive additional information each week in the mail. Oz Hawksley, trip leader, is doing a fine job in organizing the trip schedule and it appears from his last letter that this trip has much to offer to the newcomer to River Touring as well as the more advanced Foldboater. Many will ride the 10 man rafts but will undoubtedly have opportunities to try out the smaller boats if they wish. Those with canoes or foldboats will have their gear carried on the rafts.

The following schedule from Oz may interest you.

ASSEMBLY POINT—Kooskia on hwys. 9 and 13. May be reached by bus. Actual point in town to be announced later. Leave most autos here.

Base Camp—In general area of confluence of the Selway and Lochsa rivers, some 20-30 miles East of Kooskia.

Equipment and Clothing—Temperatures in the canyons are "warm" even at night, in August. If camp is at higher altitude, it still will not be high enough to require heavy clothing. Water will be warm enough for swimming, but trout fishing (cutthroats) is not very good in the more public areas in this warmer weather. Mountain tent or other light shelter recommended.

DAILY SCHEDULE—(tentative)

First day—Middle Fork of Clearwater from confluence of Lochsa and Selway, past Penny Cliffs damsite to Kooskia. Gradient 10-12 ft./mi. An easy run to get the feel of it.

Second Day—Selway River from Selway Falls to junction with Lochsa. Eighteen miles on a beautiful little river, including Fall Creek Rapids. Gradient about 13 ft./mi.

Third Day—Lochsa River from Zion Point to Selway junction. Another little gem, but faster. Gradients from 33 ft./mi. to 16 ft./mi. at junction. Start at mile 25, mile 19 the fast drop of Devil's Pulpit just below Bright Angel Point, mile 18 another fast drop at Skeleton Face Bluff, then easy going, but still plenty fast, to the Middle Fork.

Fourth Day—Change of pace. Leisurely hikes, foldboating or just resting at camp.

Fifth to Eighth Days—North Fork of the Clearwater from Bungalow to Dent. This is a real wilderness trip with plenty of exciting rapids. The two big named rapids are Government Rapids and Irish Railroad Rapids. Morton Brigham of Lewiston says, "I always remember Moscow Bar as one of the most beautiful places along the North Fork, and it would be a mistake if you do not camp there at Rock Creek. . . before they complete a road down the canyon". We plan to camp there. Signs of civilization will be seen again briefly at Canyon Ranger Station, then there is roadless area again to the take-out point.

Eighth Day—Take-out and pass Bruce's Eddy Damsite. Departure from Orofino or return to Kooskia.

Sounds like real fun with a grand group of people!! —Lou Elliott

Tourist Club Party

On June 21st the hikers, after a 4-mile stroll in the shadow of Mt. Tamalpais, will have their annual dinner followed by folk dancing at the Tourist Club in Mill Valley. The well-known caller and instructor, Al Williamson, will lead the square and folk dancing activities. Girls please bring your folk dance skirts. Dining room capacity is limited so please reserve your tickets early - in San Francisco with Walt Oppenheimer or with Liz Davies in Berkeley. Price: $0.75 plus $0.25 entertainment charge. See schedule for other particulars. —Bob Boelen

For Sale

Elliot-Addresserette and accessories - $30.00 or make offer. This hand operated machine addresses envelopes, etc., using stencis which can be cut on office typewriter. Contact Ken Turner, 1720 N St., Sacramento, California.

Stop the Press!

Stop the press! Woops, too late—by several months. Schedule change for the July 11-12th Clair Tappan weekend: For information and coordination, call Ida Christensen at her new number: WA 1-3626 (8:00 to 10:00); Hosting for the weekend will be Dell Dawson, to be reached at her new number: WE 1-8925 (7:00 to 9:30). —Jim Planakis

(Cont. from Col. 1)

Looking for a Camera Bargain?

It's a Zeiss Mirroflex, 9 x 12 cm (Practically 4" x 5") with Zeiss Tessar Lens F.4.5; focal plane shutter with speeds to 1/2000th. A reflex type camera with focusing back; 11 cut film holders; 2 No. 120 roll film magazines; film pack adapter—all in fine leather case. Ideal camera for home portraiture, child photography and scientific work requiring critical focusing without parallax, and high speeds desirable in photographing sports, birds, animals, river rapids and falls, operating machinery—anything where fast motion must be arrested. Principal feature: Very compact camera in relation to picture size. A lot of fine equipment for only $85.00 cash, it should not be for sale long. Telephone owner early any evening for appointment to inspect this equipment. ANdover 1-5737

Big Chief Grey Eagle

David R. Brower, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, has been invited to give the Eagle Challenge to six Explorer Scouts of Post 28, Mill Valley.

The event will be an Eagle Court of Honor on Saturday evening, June 20th, with the program starting at 8:00 p.m.

The site will be the Mountain Theater, Mt. Tamalpais State Park. This will be the first time this location has been used for a Boy Scout program.

Scouts of Pack 28, Troop 28 and Post 28 will participate as well as the Treasure Island Male Chorus and others.

Members of the Sierra Club, their families and friends are invited to attend this Court for which there is no admission charge. —Prentiss Goldstone

The Sierra Club